WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. An electronic document management system, comprising:

a data creation device for creating data by dividing an electronic document into two or more partial documents having an arbitrary or fixed length;

a signature device for generating a plurality of items of information for verifying the validity of each of the partial documents and affixing a digital signature to an aggregate of the generated items of information for verifying the validity of the partial documents;

a masking device for masking, by deleting or modifying, the electronic document targeted for a digital signature on an individual partial document basis; and

a verification device for verifying the validity of the masked electronic document.

2. The electronic document management system according to claim 1, wherein the verification device confirms the validity of the whole electronic document by verifying the aggregate of the information for confirming the validity of the partial documents; and confirms the validity of the partial documents of the electronic document targeted for verification by verifying the information for confirming the validity of each of the partial documents, and determines whether the electronic document is partially deleted or

modified.

3. The electronic document management system according to claim 2, wherein the verification device displays the result of the verification on a display unit for the purpose of notifying a verifier whether the electronic document is partially deleted or modified while assuring the validity of the whole electronic document.

4. The electronic document management system according to claim 1, wherein the data creation device divides the electronic document by adding a delimiter to the beginning and/or end of the partial documents.

5. The electronic document management system according to claim 4, wherein the electronic document is a document created with a markup language, wherein the partial documents are markup units for the document created with the markup language, and wherein the delimiter is a tag for the markup language.

6. The electronic document management system according to claim 2, wherein the information for confirming the validity of the partial documents is a hash value which is generated with a hash function for the partial documents.

7. The electronic document management system according to claim 2, wherein the information for confirming the validity of the partial documents is a digital signature for the partial documents.